

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action mailed 31 March 2003 (Paper No. 9). Claims 1-15 were pending. Claims 1, 4, and 11 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 have been cancelled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, following entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 4-12 and 15 will be pending. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,677,578 (Roos). Roos discloses a sealing sleeve (12) that includes a helical coil element (32) which is disposed within the sleeve (12) and partially embedded in the interior surface of the sleeve (12). At the end of the sleeve (12) a helical recess (36) is provided between the initial adjacent turns of the coil element (32) for receiving three arcuately-shaped and helically-bent ring segments (38, 40 and 42). The three ring segments are expanded outwardly to form an external bead on the sleeve (12) to prevent removal of the fitting back through an opening (14) when the tubular member (18) is fully inserted into the sleeve (12).

By contrast, the present invention comprises an elastic sealing member that includes a pressed portion formed on an inner surface defining a mounting hole. The pressed portion is pressed by a fitting portion to radially expand the elastic sealing member when the fitting portion is fitted in the mounting hole. Therefore, the elastic sealing member is securely engaged with a

Application No. 09/479,431

coupling hole by a simple method without increasing the number of components. Roos does not disclose this pressed portion that is directly formed on the inner surface of the sealing member and pressed by the fitting portion to radially expand the elastic sealing member required by the instant Claim 1, as amended. Therefore, Roos does not anticipate Claim 1.

Further, the Examiner states that the “pressed portion” of the grommet (12) of Roos reads on the lower portion (46) of the grommet (12). However, as disclosed by the device of Roos, the lower portion (46) of the grommet (12) is radially expanded using the three ring segments (38, 40, and 42) and the “pressed portion” is not directly formed on an inner surface of the grommet (12). Accordingly, the present invention is distinguishable from the disclosure of Roos.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,886,019 (Davis). Applicants have cancelled Claims 13 and 14. Claim 11, as amended, requires a main body of a flow control valve that has a rotating portion for rotating the fitting portion when engaging the flow control valve with the coupling hole and a hose connector, connected to the rotating portion, to connect a tubing hose. The rotating portion is used to position the tubing hose when connecting the tubing hose to the hose connector. Using this configuration, the tubing hose is easily and securely connected to the hose connector.

Davis does not disclose the rotating portion of the present invention that is used to position a tubing hose when connecting the tubing hose to a hose connector. Accordingly, Davis does not anticipate Claims 11 and 12, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Application No. 09/479,431

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: Robert D. Traver

Robert D. Traver
Registration No. 47,999
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

Date: 31 July 2003